

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVANORDER:RGH

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 117578

R 032243Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 260139

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
NOVEMBER 3, 1975:

Q. HOW ABOUT THE NUCLEAR REACTORS? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING
FURTHER TO SAY THAN THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY?

A. NO, I DON'T REALLY. TALKS ARE UNDERWAY NOW WITH AN
EGYPTIAN TECHNICAL TEAM LOOKING TOWARDS THE CONCLUSION OF
A SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, AND WE ARE NOW HOLDING INTENSIVE
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS, OBVIOUSLY. BUT I THINK AS
OF TODAY IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR ME TO GET INTO ANY OF THE
DETAILS OF IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY DETAILS ABOUT THE REPORTED MILITARY
TAKEOVER IN BANGLADESH, ANYTHING FROM THE U.S. MISSION
THERE?

A. NO. WE DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH ON IT. ELEMENTS OF THE
BANGLADESH MILITARY APPEAR TO HAVE REVOLTED AGAINST
THE GOVERNMENT IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF NOVEMBER 3,
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DACCA TIME, AND THE SITUATION STILL APPEARS TO BE FLUID
THERE. AS OF THE TIME THIS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED THERE
WERE NO REPORTS OF ANY FIGHTING, BUT I SAW A TICKER
JUST BEFORE I CAME IN WHERE THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME
SPORADIC FIRING. THUS FAR THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY
THREAT OF AMERICAN LIVES THERE. THAT'S ABOUT ALL WE HAVE
AT THE MOMENT, BUT OBVIOUSLY WE ARE WATCHING THIS VERY
CLOSELY.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT
HAS CONSULTED WITH THE UNITED STATES ABOUT POSSIBLE
INTERVENTION?

A. I CANNOT CONFIRM ANY SUCH REPORTS AT ALL, NO. AS FAR AS I KNOW, ON THIS SUBJECT, OUR POSITION IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS IT WAS.

Q. THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ASKED FOR ANY HELP?

A. AS FAR AS INTERVENTION GOES?

Q. WITH RESPECT TO RESOLVING THE CRISIS?

A. WELL, THE ONLY THING THAT I AM AWARE OF IS THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT CAME TO US LAST FRIDAY -- I THINK IT WAS -- AND ASKED AMBASSADOR GODLEY IF WE COULD PROVIDE SOME HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS RIGHT NOW OF ARRANGING TO SHIP DOLS 500,000 WORTH OF DISASTER RELIEF MATERIAL -- DRUGS, MEDICINES, ETC. -- TO GET TO LEBANON BY AIR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A LITTLE MORE THAN EIGHT TONS OF SUCH SUPPLIES ARE READY FOR SHIPMENT UP AT JFK AIRPORT. THEY WERE READY YESTERDAY, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE FLOWN TO BEIRUT FROM NEW YORK BY TRANS-MEDITERRANEAN AIRLINES, WHICH IS AN INTERNATIONAL CARGO CARRIER WHICH IS BASED IN LEBANON. THEIR OFFICE OVER HERE IS AT JFK IN NEW YORK. THIS WILL BE CONSIGNED TO THE HOSPITAL OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER HOSPITALS AND CLINICS IN LEBANON.

Q. WHO OWNS THAT AIRLINE? CAN YOU GIVE US A LINE OR TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THAT AIRLINE, PLEASE?

A. I'LL HAVE TO GET IT; I DON'T HAVE IT HERE. THE ONLY ADDITIONAL THING I HAVE: THERE WAS A PILOT, YOU REMEMBER,

NAMED HUDDLESTON. HE'S AN EMPLOYEE OF TRANS-MEDITERRANEAN AIRLINES, AND HE WAS ABDUCTED THIRSDAY OR FRIDAY. HE HAS BEEN RELEASED, AND IT WAS THE AIRLINES THAT WAS VERY INSTRUMENTAL IN EFFECTING HIS RELEASE, AND HE'S ALIVE, SAFE, AND WELL, AND THAT ONE HAS BEEN SOLVED.

Q. ARE THOSE EIGHT TONS A FIRST INSTALLMENT WITH MORE TO COME OR WHAT?

A. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHETHER THIS WILL JUST BE A FIRST INSTALLMENT. I THINK IT WILL DEPEND ON THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATE OF THEIR FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. AND OBVIOUSLY IF THEY HAVE A NEED FOR MORE THAN THIS WE OBVIOUSLY WILL LOOK AT IT VERY SYMPATHETICALLY.

NOW, IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, AMERICAN RED

CROSS, ETC. SO I THINK ONE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THIS JUDGMENT ON THE GROUND.

Q. BUT THESE EIGHT TONS REPRESENT THE HALF MILLION DOLLARS?

A. THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S FROM OUR AID DISASTER RELIEF CONTINGENCY FUND. BUT THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL THINGS GOING FROM THE RED CROSS, FOR EXAMPLE.

Q. IS THE DISASTER RELIEF GOING TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO BOTH THE RIGHT WING AND THE MOSLEM LEFTISTS? BOTH SIDES HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO THAT?

A. AS I SAID WITH REGARD TO THESE EIGHT TONS THAT ARE GOING OUT, IT'S GOING TO GO TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT -- NOT THE VARIOUS FAC TIONS. THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT REQUESTED THE HELP. IT'S GOING TO THE HOSPITAL OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT, WHICH WILL, PRESUMABLY -- UNCLASSIFIED

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I DON'T KNOW, BUT PRESUMABLY -- IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT -- I ASSUME THERE ARE GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, GOVERNMENT CLINICS -- THEY WILL WORK TOGETHER TO DISTRIBUTE THESE EIGHT TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WHERE IT'S NEEDED. I'M NOT SURE IT'S A QUESTION OF DELIVERING IT TO ONE FACTION OR ANOTHER FACTION. THIS IS STRICTLY MEDICAL, AND THEY WANT TO GET INTO THE HANDS OF THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

Q. IS THAT A GRANT?

A. I AM VIRTUALLY POSITIVE IT'S A GRANT. THE DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS ARE NOT ON LOAN AS FAR AS I KNOW. IT'S NOT MADE ON A LOAN BASIS.

Q. THE UNITED NATIONS IS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS PARTICULAR DISASTER RELIEF OPERATION?

A. NO, THIS IS FROM OUR AID DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE.

Q. IT'S STRICTLY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT?

A. YES, SIR.

Q. YOU'RE SAYING THOUGH THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY OTHER KIND OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY OTHER KIND OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE; FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH AS THE QUESTION THAT DICK RAISED WITH ME IN THE BEGINNING.

Q. YOU ARE UNAWARE OF IT, BUT COULD YOU SAY CATEGORICAL-
LY THAT IT HASN'T BEEN ASKED FOR?

A. I WILL BE GLAD TO CHECK INTO IT AND IF I AM WRONG, I
WILL GET BACK TO YOU. BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE
SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE LAST FRIDAY -- BUT I MAY
BE WRONG.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE TWO USIA MEN? IS THERE ANYTHING
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FURTHER ON THEM?

A. AMBASSADOR GODLEY, PERSONALLY, CONTINUES TO BE IN
VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WITH
REGARD TO THESE TWO GENTLEMEN. BUT AS OF RIGHT TODAY,
I JUST CANNOT GIVE YOU ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON IT. BUT HE
IS PERSONALLY -- WITHIN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, FOR
EXAMPLE -- HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE LEBANESE
GOVERNMENT AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO BE WORKING ON THIS.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY DEMAND FOR RANSOM?

A. I SAID FIVE OR SIX DAYS AGO THAT I WAS UNAWARE OF
ANY; AND I HAVE CHECKED INTO THIS AND I CAN SAY THAT AS OF
TODAY WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH DEMAND.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT
BROADCAST YESTERDAY THAT THEY WERE GYPPE OUT OF
DOLS 60 MILLION IN FOREIGN AID?

A. A VERY BRIEF ONE FOR YOU ON THAT. THERE WERE SOME
QUESTIONS REGARDING THE AID PACKAGE FOR ISRAEL THAT CAME
UP. THE SECRETARY HAS DISCUSSED QUESTIONS WITH
AMBASSADOR DINITZ; AND ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THESE
QUESTIONS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING RESOLVED.

Q. THAT LEAVES OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF WHAT?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO --

SOME OF THEM WERE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES -- QUESTIONS
AND OTHER QUESTIONS -- BUT I THINK THE MAIN POINT HERE,
FRANKLY, IS -- AND I DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE SECRETARY
THIS MORNING -- I THINK THE MAIN POINT HERE IS THAT
THE QUESTIONS THAT DID ARISE, ARE IN THE PROCESS OF
BEING RESOLVED. RIGHT NOW I WOULD JUST LIKE TO LEAVE IT
THERE BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY, THIS WHOLE THING IS GOING TO
BE DISCUSSED AT GREAT LENGTH UP ON THE HILL WHEN THE
TESTIMONY STARTS --

Q. YOU MEAN YOU ARE LEAVING OPEN, FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROPORTION OF CREDIT VERSUS SALES MIGHT HAVE CHANGED?

A. THIS IS ONE OF THE QUESTIONS, OBVIOUSLY, THAT CAME UP; AND I AM JUST SAYING THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT CAME UP THAT IS BEING RESOLVED.

I DO NOT EXPECT THAT THESE QUESTIONS THAT DID ARISE ARE GOING TO REPRESENT A PROBLEM BETWEEN US AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL. I THINK THAT IS THE BEST SAY TO LEAVE IT RIGHT NOW.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS STILL LEFT IN LEBANON?

A. YES, I'M SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN THAT. OVER THE WEEKEND, AS WE ALL KNOW, AMBASSADOR GODLEY ORDERED THE DEPARTURE OF THE REMAINING OFFICIAL AMERICAN DEPENDENTS AND LESS ESSENTIAL EMBASSY STAFF.

AND AS OF YESTERDAY, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS REMAINING IN LEBANON WAS 196 -- OF WHICH 48 WERE DEPENDENTS.

DEPARTURES ARE CONTINUING, AND ALL OFFICIAL DEPENDENTS SHOULD BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY BY MIDWEEK OF THIS WEEK.

THE DEPARTURE OF SOME OF THE LESS ESSENTIAL STAFF PERSONNEL MAY TAKE A LITTLE BIT LONGER.

WITH REGARD TO DEPARTURES, THERE IS STILL ADEQUATE, FULLY ADEQUATE, COMMERCIAL SERVICE THAT IS GOING OUT OF BEIRUT. THE AIRPORT IS OPEN. THERE IS NO PROBLEM ON THAT FRONT, AS OF THE LAST TIME I CHECKED INTO THIS.

WITH REGARD TO THE NONOFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN LEBANON, BEGINNING LAST SATURDAY, THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN ADVISING THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY THAT THEY SHOULD CONSIDER EVACUATING THEIR DEPENDENTS AND LESS ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES FROM BEIRUT.

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IN OUR LAST ESTIMATE -- WHICH IS PROBABLY ABOUT 36 HOURS OLD NOW, AT LEAST, I WOULD SAY -- OF THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE AMERICANS REMAINING IN LEBANON AND WHO MIGHT WITH TO DEPART, IS ABOUT 500.

NOW AS YOU RECALL, WE HAVE THE 1,500 FIGURE THAT I
GAVE YOU A COUPLE OF TIMES LAST WEEK, WHICH CONSISTS OF
DUAL NATIONALS PLUS THOSE AMERICANS IN LEBANON WHO DO NOT
WISH TO DEPART. SO THAT AS OF NOW YOU CAN SAY
THERE ARE ROUGHLY A COUPLE OF THOUSAND PRIVATE
AMERICANS THERE.

Q. LET ME BRING OUT THE REPORT THAT MR. RABIN WILL
BE COMING HERE IN JANUARY.

A. YOU CAN CHECK OVER IN THE WHITE HOUSE IF YOU WANT.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET. IT MAY TURN
OUT IN JANUARY. I JUST DO NOT KNOW, MYSELF.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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